

INTRODUCTION

The Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council (G/FLRPC) prepared an initial Overall Economic Development Program (OEDP) in 1978. The initial OEDP served as the basis for an economic development planning program in the Genesee/Finger Lakes Region and subsequently, official designation of the Region as an Economic Development District in 1979. The original OEDP provided a description of the Economic Development District organization, background information on the area's geography, population, labor force, resources, and economic activities as well as an analysis of development potentials and constraints. The document also set forth goals and objectives for the Economic Development District, a development strategy to achieve these goals, and a District work program designed to promote and assist in the implementation of the development strategy.

The U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) designated the Region as an Economic Development District in September of 1979. This designation was made possible by EDA's approval of the initial OEDP. EDA also provided the G/FLRPC with a planning and operational grant that was and continues to be committed for staff salaries, equipment, software, training, and other expenses of the District.

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is the successor to the OEDP and is intended to further the effective Federal/local efforts initiated under the previous program. The preparation of the CEDS is an ongoing process and serves as a planning document for the economic development of the District. Essentially, the G/FLRPC uses the CEDS as a guide to its annual work program. The report provides an overview of the District's social and economic trends using recent data from state and federal sources, details current projects and those that will be undertaken in 2001 by the nine counties and the City of Rochester, discusses environmental considerations, and outlines the goals, objectives, strategies and work program of the G/FLRPC to further strengthen the District's economy.

All member counties (and the City of Rochester) are participating in the District program and have elected to have the CEDS Document serve their planning needs and designation obligations.